

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

OMB-01 IO-13 ACDA-19 DPW-01 EUR-25 RSR-01 AID-20

SSO-00 /159 W

----- 115845

R 031124 Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4510

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC

UNCLAS BANGKOK 10299

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, OREP, MOPS, TH, CB

SUBJ: F. M. PRAPHAT ON CAMBODIA BOMBING RESTRICTIONS ;

U. S. PRESENCE

1. IN RESPONSE TO A REPORTER' S QUESTION FIELD MARSHAL PRAPAT CHARUSTHIRA MADE THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS ON CONGRESSIONAL CUT- OFF OF BOMBING IN INDOCHINA: BEGIN EXCERPTS: THE CARRYING OUT OF BOMBING MISSIONS IN CAMBODIA IS REALLY NONE OF OUR BUSINESS. IT CONCERNS CAMBODIA. ON THE OTHER HAND, SINCE CAMBODIA IS A COUNTRY THAT ADJOINS THAILAND, ANY RESULTS OF ANY ACTION AFFECTING THAT COUNTRY WILL HAVE REPERCUSSIONS ON AND AFFECT THAILAND ALSO. THERE IS NO QUESTION ABOUT THAT. SHOULD THE CUTTING OFF OF THE BUDGET FOR BOMBING IN CAMBODIA AND THE CESSATION OF BOMBING BY AMERICA RESULT IN PEACE BEING RESTORED, IN THE FIGHTING AND THE WAR BEING ENDED, AND IN NEGOTIATIONS BEING HELD, THEN IT WOULD BE GOOD. BUT RESULTS OBTAINED MIGHT BE TOTALLY OPPOSITE. SHOULD CESSATION OF BOMBING BY AMERICA RESULT IN THE OTHER SIDE GAINING

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ADVANTAGES IN THE WAR, THEN IT WOULD NOT BE GOOD. BUT IT IS NONE OF OUR BUSINESS TO MEDDLE IN THE MATTER. THE ONLY COMMENT THAT CAN BE MADE IS IF CESSATION OF BOMBING LEADS TO NEGOTIATIONS AND RESTORES PEACE AND ORDER, THEN RESULTS OBTAINED WILL BE GOOD FOR THAILAND AND FOR THE WORLD, AS WELL AS FOR CAMBODIA.

REPORTER: WILL MILITARY AID FOR US BE CUT DOWN ALSO?

PRAPHAT: IT WILL BE CUT DOWN. THAT IS CERTAIN.

REPORTER: TO WHAT EXTENT WILL IT BE CUT DOWN?

PRAPHAT: THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAS NOT GIVEN PERMISSION FOR THAT TO BE DISCLOSED YET.

REPORTER: IF AMERICA STOPS BOMBING IN CAMBODIA WOULD THAT MEAN IT WOULD STOP USING BASES IN THAILAND?

PRAPHAT: NOTHING IS CERTAIN BECAUSE AMERICA HAS NOT STOPPED BOMBING YET. SHOULD IT STOP IT WILL MOST PROBABLY INFORM US. SHOULD IT NOT STOP, IT WILL MOST PROBABLY REMAIN HERE.

BUT SHOULD IT CONTINUE REMAINING HERE AND IT NOT BE OF ANY USEFULNESS, WE MIGHT END THE AGREEMENT.

QUESTIONS ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OUGHT TO BE PUT TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. END EXCERPTS.

MASTERS

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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